

Ted Newman
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June 23, 2005

Bruce McDannold
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1500 11th Street
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Sacramento, CA 95814

This statement for the public record was sent by e-mail to: bmcdanno@ss.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment on Voting Systems and Procedures Panel Meeting
Held on June 16-17, 2005

For the Public Record:

My name is Ted Newman. I live in Mill Valley, Marin County. I am a founding member of USVIP, also a member of California Election Protection Network.

Logic dictates that when an executive of a nationwide election tabulation company ("vendor") publicly states in advance of an election, "We will deliver the vote in Ohio to George Bush," something is wrong, VERY wrong. I was in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Election Night 2004. I and other election workers watched the vote theft occur as the "results" were announced on the networks at about 9 p.m. local time. We were dumbfounded, but not surprised.

The executive that made that election promise is the CEO of Diebold Election Systems, Inc. That kind of cronyism reminds me of representatives of other industries direct involvement in the writing of federal regulation. That kind of inside "fixing" is illegal. It should not be permitted in any state, especially here in California.

Ample evidence has been presented that Diebold Election Systems, Election Systems & Software and other tabulation vendors have either broken state laws, provided equipment that is unreliable, equipment that cannot meet the current HAVA guidelines for compliance, or are not able to provide a meaningful paper ballot for verification and recount. These “carpet baggers” are not qualified to sell, manage or tabulate our elections. They have no business here.

The State of California is the 6th largest economy in the world, inhabited by one in eight U.S. citizens. Ponder the power and influence of those facts. California’s independent and innovative approach toward many areas of daily life demands an election system and procedures that instills confidence and trust in the voters. What we here in California implement regarding election systems and procedures will ripple across the nation and around the world. We must act wisely for the sake of a vibrant democracy.

I vote that we the people of the state of California (and of the United States) fund 100% hand counted, 100% verifiable paper balloted elections. What is the urgency in knowing the outcome of any race or issue by the next morning? The presidential election is not certified by the Congress until two months later. I propose that our HAVA mandated funds be spent on paying election officials to count the votes by hand, not by machines and their software that were designed and controlled by out-of-state corporations who stand to benefit time and again politically and financially. Involving more citizens (hands-on) directly in the election process is what our democracy needs. Paper ballots and hand counting has not changed much over time. That method does not require regular re-certification and updates, batteries, maintenance and so on.

We the people have spoken and will continue to do so. Please go forth and act accordingly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ted Newman